

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("~~_____~~"), as is applicable:

1. (Previously presented) A circuit board module, comprising:
a circuit board that includes a processor and memory; and
an external connector panel that provides user access to connectors that are mounted to the circuit board when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit that can be installed in a computer, the connector panel comprising connection elements that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the circuit board further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the circuit board to a computer chassis.

4. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the circuit board is a computer motherboard.

5. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the connector panel comprises openings with which the connectors are aligned or extend through.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The module of claim 1, wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the circuit board.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The module of claim 1, wherein the connection elements include tabs that are configured for receipt by slots of a computer chassis.

10. (Previously presented) A motherboard module separate from a computer, the module comprising:

a computer motherboard that includes a processor and memory, the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard; and

an external connector panel having openings that are configured to receive the input/output connectors mounted to the motherboard so as to provide access to the connectors to a computer user when the module is installed in a host computer, the

connector panel further comprising connection elements that are configured to directly connect the panel to a computer chassis;

wherein the motherboard and the connector panel are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit in which the rear edge of the motherboard aligns with the connector panel and the motherboard extends normal from the connector panel.

11. (Original) The module of claim 10, wherein the motherboard further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

12. (Original) The module of claim 10, wherein at least one connector mounted to the motherboard is also attached to the connector panel to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard.

13. (Original) The module of claim 10, wherein the connection elements include tabs that are configured for receipt by slots of a computer chassis.

14. (Previously presented) A computer, comprising:

an outer housing;

a chassis mounted within the outer housing; and

a pre-assembled motherboard module that includes a motherboard that is mounted within the chassis and an external connector panel that is accessible from the exterior of the computer, the motherboard and the connector panel being connected

together to form a single, integrated unit, the motherboard including a processor, memory, and input/output connectors, the connector panel providing user access to the motherboard connectors and comprising connection elements that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to the computer chassis.

15. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein the connectors are mounted to the motherboard.

16. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein the circuit board further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the circuit board to the chassis.

17. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein at least one connector is attached to the connector panel.

18. (Original) The computer of claim 17, wherein the at least one connector is also mounted to the motherboard so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 14, wherein the connection elements include tabs on one of the connector panel and the chassis and slots on the other of the connector panel and the chassis.

21. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a computer, the method comprising:

pre-assembling a motherboard module comprising a motherboard and an integral external connector panel; and

installing the motherboard module as a single unit in a computer chassis by installing the motherboard module into the computer chassis without sliding the motherboard module into place.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein pre-assembling a motherboard module comprises mounting the connector panel to the motherboard by securing a connector that is mounted to the motherboard to the connector panel.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein installing the motherboard module comprises attaching the connector panel of the motherboard module to the computer chassis using tabs provided on one of the connector panel and the chassis.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein installing the motherboard module further comprises securing the motherboard to the chassis with threaded fasteners.